

bert, was the corner stone of the German position in this sector. Plomont, the height to the southeast of Launoy, was not captured, but the French were a footing on it. The latest reports from the front received in London to-night confirm a report, previously discredited, that on Gen. Mangin's right Laval was captured, also some thousands of additional prisoners. It is clear now that Gen. Mangin's guns command the railway from Noyon to the east to Le Perre, the only outlet for the Germans in that direction except for two narrow gauge roads.

ENEMY SURPRISED BY ATTACK IN FOG British Still Going Forward at Last Reports.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE BRITISH ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 21.—Smashing into Gen. von Lossow's Seventeenth Army during a heavy fog at dawn to-day on a front of more than ten miles, extending from the Ancre River to Moyenneville, the British through the day made steady progress, capturing villages, taking prisoners and guns and inflicting heavy casualties on the surprised enemy.

Coming directly on the heels of the battle of the Somme, the scene of which virtually adjoins the field of the new operations, this blow exploits to the limit the confusion created among the German forces by their recent defeats.

Heavy fighting has taken place along the embankment of the Albert-Arras railway, which, along the line, seems to have been reached easily by the storming British infantrymen, who were assisted in this task by tanks.

From this embankment the Germans, armed with countless machine guns, fired a rain of bullets in an effort to keep the British from coming further. But while they were doing it they themselves must have suffered severely, not only from the flood of direct and indirect machine gun fire but from shells which were sent crashing down on them from directly in front of them, from the British field guns, moved up closely in the rear of the infantry, and from their tanks, where the big British guns hurled in an avalanche of steel from the north.

As is inevitable when a battle rages with such intensity as along this embankment, the exact situation is obscure, but reports have been received that the British have broken down the German defence at various places and have passed the line to the eastern side. Behind the embankment there may not have been a great force of German reserves when the battle began, but by this time the German command is rushing men to the scene as fast as he can, for another disaster threatens him.

The battle opened with a sudden crash of guns of all calibres just as day was breaking. Great billows of thick fog such as are seen only on this side of the Atlantic filled the air, and the British infantrymen and tank crews could scarcely see a hundred feet ahead of them, and the flare of countless blazing cannon was smothered, while explosions from their mouths rolled up into a continuous deadly roar.

The fog was most favorable to the attacking formation, which it effectively shielded them from the eyes of the enemy and at the same time caused the Germans opposite to believe the attack was not directly against them.

"The guns sounded a long way off," said a captured prisoner, "so we congratulated ourselves that we were not to be attacked. Just then a tank, followed by infantry, rolled right over our position and I surrendered."

As tanks and men followed behind the sweeping barrage, the atmosphere became even thicker, for mixed with the fog were great banks of smoke from innumerable shells fired for just this purpose of increasing the protecting haze.

The German guns retaliated only feebly, but there was sharp fighting at various points, where isolated posts filled with machine guns and snipers put up a stiff battle. At the little shell ruined village of Courcelles, about the center of the battle front, the German machine gunners made a desperate fight, but at a time the advance of the infantry was held up at this place.

Then the tanks arrived and charged into the enemy positions, quickly transforming them from strongholds to shambles. The tanks repeated this performance at other places where the stubborn boches held out for a time. By their courage availed them nothing in the face of the great tanks, dipping in and out of shell holes and across old trenches that have been scoured by the fiercest machine gun fire. The smaller whippet tanks and armored cars which snared over the ground at a great rate on their mission of clearing the way for the infantry, were pinned in at the rear of the positions from which the enemy was working his guns.

In comparison with the harder fighting it is worthy of mention that at some places no resistance of any practical importance developed. For instance, the village of Beaucourt was taken with only three casualties on the British side. They seemed clean, and were as pleased with themselves as if going on leave. One of them questioned said he was very happy to be taken.

A wounded British soldier told of being separated from his platoon in the fog. He pressed on nevertheless and joined other groups. One said that plunging blindly through the fog he ran directly into a German machine gun, which opened fire on him. It managed to get in one shot, taking off a finger, before he and his comrades finished off the Germans with their rifles.

In the early forenoon the fog cleared away completely and the sun appeared and after that the battle progressed under a broiling sun. As the fog disappeared the roar of airplane motors increased, the British machines pursuing the same tactics as the day before, harassing the enemy at the rear and stranding the German troops generally, upsetting them completely at many places.

The fast little whippet tanks had, as one tank officer said, "gone out into the wide world," and there is no doubt that they are exacting as great a toll here as they did south of the Somme. The armored cars had gone into action also, operating far forward, chasing the Boche from his many lairs and making quick work of those who tried to run.

In this battle the advancing troops did not stop a moment at their early objectives. Several formations joined forces and pressed on together. Successive echelons were merged at a place where the going was heavy.

The battle continues with unabated fury and there is no sign that its conclusion is near.

House Passes Red Cross Bill.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 21.—The House passed to-day a bill admitting free of import duties all supplies consigned to the American Red Cross. It now goes to the Senate.

LOSS OF COLONIES ALARMS GERMANY

Vital Question to Workers, Dr. Solf Says, as He Seeks Compromise.

ECONOMIC PLANS FAIL

Secretary Speaks of Mutual Tolerance in Russia and Independent Belgium.

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 21.—Speaking before the German Society in Berlin, Dr. W. S. Solf, German Secretary of State for the Colonies, said that the German working classes were becoming conscious of the fact that the retention of Germany's colonies was a vital question. He said that Germany desired to compromise regarding colonial questions on the basis that these possessions shall correspond to the economic strength of the nations. On this point Dr. Solf said:

"I dare say the safeguarding of our colonial future is not only the aim of our Government and certain groups of individuals, but it has become an aim of the German people. A lively consciousness now extends far into the workers' circles that the retention of our colonies is a vital question for the honor of Germany as a great Power. Our colonial war aims are second to no other in national importance. The growing realization of German workers as to Germany's position is especially evident in view of the plans of our enemies, which have been clearly revealed during the last few days."

Referring to the recent address by A. J. Balfour, British Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr. Solf said:

"He formally announced Great Britain's claim for the annexation of our colonies, and did not hesitate to advance on moral grounds this claim for annexation. He not only concerns himself as to our colonial methods, but goes into high politics with all the subtleties of the situation. He announced the British creed, which amounts to representing Britain's right to world domination as something self-evident and morally annihilating Germany's claim to be a great Power."

Mail Plot Doctrine.

Declaring that Mr. Balfour's accusation against Germany demanded a reply, Dr. Solf continued:

"Mr. Balfour asserts that intellectual Germany is dominated by the mail plot doctrine. Here there are chauvinistic fancies, people who worship the eternal flame, and who without understanding await the approach of a stronger power. These people formed a small group without political influence on the Government, which constantly combated them. During the war, their number increased, because the struggle for Germany's supremacy in the world had taken deeper root, but because their ranks were purged by numerous sober and solicitous patriots."

"Among these are many who before the war held high ideals about an understanding of peace, good will and fair play in international relations, but whose political creed broke down under the experience of the war."

"Here there is the blame lie. Nowhere else could we find a more certain enemies—that spirit which is a dishonor and has turned to scorn the grand ideal of a league of nations by a simultaneous attack for a commercial war against Germany."

Mention of Belgium.

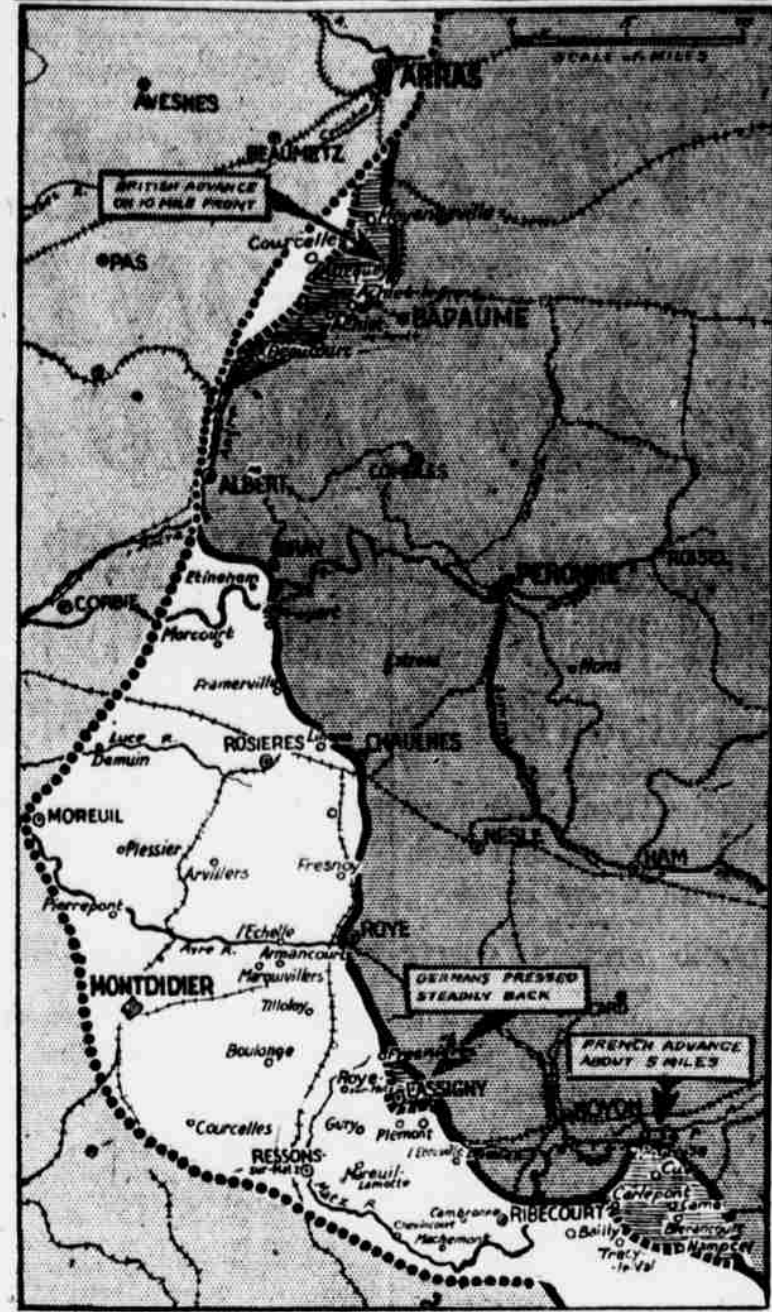
Mr. Balfour first mentions Belgium. How small a part regard for Belgium has drawn the world into this war, is most clearly shown by an extract from the American press, which England's Minister of Propaganda, Northcliffe, has made a desperate fight, and for a time the advance of the infantry was held up at this place.

Then the tanks arrived and charged into the enemy positions, quickly transforming them from strongholds to shambles. The tanks repeated this performance at other places where the stubborn boches held out for a time. By their courage availed them nothing in the face of the great tanks, dipping in and out of shell holes and across old trenches that have been scoured by the fiercest machine gun fire. The smaller whippet tanks and armored cars which snared over the ground at a great rate on their mission of clearing the way for the infantry, were pinned in at the rear of the positions from which the enemy was working his guns.

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Where the French and British Struck Joint Blows Against the Amiens Salient



GEN. MANGIN'S drive to Noyon and the Oise is developing into a major operation of the highest importance, apparently with the object of forcing in both shoulders of the now flattened Amiens salient and compelling a withdrawal of the Germans over a wide area, similar to the operation against the one time German wedge down to the Marne. At one place on the right the French advanced yesterday five miles to the Oise, while a little to the left Lassigny fell into their hands. Twenty villages were captured.

At the same time the British drove in on their side of the salient on a front of ten miles, capturing many villages and a large number of prisoners and forming a dent in the line which is certain to trouble the Germans greatly in the next few days.

A colonial Power "on the principle of respecting human rights" he cited a sentence in Mr. Balfour's speech to the effect that the abyss between the Central Powers and the Allies was so deep that it could not be bridged.

"Mr. Balfour can go on," he said, "and claim for himself that he has made this abyss deeper."

Dr. Solf concluded with the statement that the men to write home "news items" who can be regarded as centres of the European conscience.

"In these centres," he said, "there still exists some little recognition of the fact that the way into the open can only be found if the war wages nations awaken to the knowledge of their common tasks."

The British troops with nothing on his mind but a soft army can. Among the German prisoners was a clear-eyed, good-looking boy of 20 from Baden who could scarcely tell how glad he was, bubbling with laughter and shouting like a school boy. He had learned English in school at Baden and spoke it well.

He told of his joy when he saw the British flag, and a few of his comrades, but he and many others seized the opportunity to put up their hands and shout their surrender. Many of the prisoners brought their rations in their packs; one man carried a whole side of bacon.

Some of our wounded declared they had seen no Germans except those who were captured or surrendering. Our prisoners represent five German divisions, including the Second Guard Reserve and the Fourth Bavarian. The air in the morning was too thick for airplane work, but as I came away they were beginning to hum about.

On other parts of the British front the news also was good. In the Meriville sector we have now advanced a good 8,000 yards. Our front runs north and south from east of Meriville to east of Vieux Herquin. In the Locre area, further north, we rushed a series of outposts constituting the German advanced line and brought away some prisoners. With the latest French advances in the south we are really keeping the Germans busy.

Since the Germans have adopted their present method of holding the front positions only by scattered posts, often a long distance in advance of their main line of resistance, we have consistently made it uncomfortable for those advanced posts. The Germans seem to have thought we would always attack in force, when the advance posts would hold us up, giving warning to the line of defence behind.

Posts are Howagers.

Instead, we busy ourselves each night circumventing the advanced posts themselves, bringing in their garrisons in small batches without any reference to the main line beyond. Instead of being a buffer to give the Germans warning these poor posts are only hostages of fortune. Stalking them has been a game in which the Australians have been star performers. The dozen short rushes with which they pushed their line forward during the summer in the Corbais area were interspersed almost

SIDEBOTHAM SEES TRENCH WAR SOON

For Seeks to Retreat in Peace, but Has to Meet Repeated Attacks.

OPEN WARFARE NEAR END

German Plans Hinge on Retention of Laon and La Fere Group of Hills.

By H. SIDEBOTHAM.

One of the foremost military critics in Europe.

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LONDON, Aug. 21.—Gen. Mangin continued yesterday his attack between the Aisne and the Oise and improved his positions. The apparently insignificant attack on Saturday at Autrechies has expanded each successive day, and as it expanded its rate of progress has been accelerated.

On Tuesday it reached as much as three miles at Cuts, on the Noyon road, but the fact that the fighting was hardest there, where the penetration was greatest, strengthens the view that the Germans are preparing to fall back and that these operations are to be interpreted not so much as a formal offensive, but rather the systematic worrying of the enemy during his preparations for retreat.

Terrain Helps Defenders.

The country between the Oise and the Aisne is broken and difficult, lending itself to defence. Although not much has been done in the angle between the Oise and the Aisne, the operations are not reckless and extravagant, as the German reports would have us believe, but more like the operations of a siege, in which preliminary bombardment once more has assumed its old importance and strategic surprise is not the first consideration.

It does not follow, however, that because the Germans had made up their minds probably to evacuate the positions between the Oise and the Aisne, they were merely rearguard engagements; on the contrary, they were contested with extreme obstinacy and the fact that the value of the ground gained, in justification for the steady pressure that the French are keeping up.

Exactly the same sort of pressure is being exercised on the British front in the Lys salient. There, too, the Germans are evidently preparing to evacuate their positions, but their retreat so far has been confined to the southern end of the salient. Their future line evidently is destined to run through the middle of the salient, and the sensitive about possession of the heights south of Ypres were voluntarily evacuated to them, but without any real intention which never justified the trouble taken to acquire it.

What is the explanation of the slow retreat of the German retreat? It seems likely, they have made up their minds to economize man power by straightening out their line and to create some reserve for operations elsewhere by abandoning their territorial acquisitions of this spring and summer.

Dare Not Retreat Quickly.

The answer is that with the Allies so vigilant and active the Germans dare not retreat quickly. Instead of being able to retire twenty or thirty miles, as they did at the beginning of last year almost without the Allies ever being in touch with them, they are now at every point of their line, the slightest movements are detected and when they seek to retire the threat of attack materializes and they lose heavily in prisoners.

In other words, the Germans are retreating slowly because they do not dare to do anything else. They have, moreover, to think of the state of feeling in Germany, and lastly they have to gain time for the preparation of new positions.

The period of open warfare is drawing to a close and a new period of trench warfare and fixed positions is about to set in. It is the great problem of general staffs of the world to find a way between making formal attacks on a great scale, which might use up our reserves and exhaust us, and allowing the enemy to execute his retreats in his own time.

The obvious nervousness of the Germans about the situation on other parts of the front is shown by the fact that they now have a very wholesome respect for the generalship of Marshal Foch and fear that he may have some strategic surprise preparing for them. Their bombardments of diverse points on the front betray their nervousness; their fussy raids evidently are in the nature of reconnaissance to discover how much of their plans have been revealed.

Great National Strength.

Whatever the German plans may be, it is obvious that they must all hinge on the continued retention of Laon and La Fere, the positions which have just been constituted a separate command under Gen. von Boehn. The position of hills is of great natural strength and may be impregnable to direct attack, but of all the threats made against the security of the German defence, the most serious is the west probably the one they regarded most seriously was that against the great mass of the French advance up the Oise toward Laon and the occupation of the Chemin des Dames.

Marshal Foch is playing on these fears by his operations between the Oise and the Aisne, and the threat against Noyon and the Oise valley. Whether the recovery of this hill country is the centre of his military plans, as it was of Gen. Mangin's, or whether he has surprises in store must be the theme of constant speculation at German headquarters.

OVER TOP—F. D. ROOSEVELT.

Declares U. S. Coast is Safe Against U-Boats.

PARIS, Aug. 21.—"We have passed the summit of the mountain as regards the war," said President D. Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the United States Navy, at a reception given by the French press this morning.

"As to our submarine warfare," he continued, "the danger point can now be said to have been made safe."

Mr. Roosevelt insisted upon the necessity of all Government departments and heads of departments seeing the war with their own eyes in order to understand its greatness.

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OFFICIAL REPORTS OF THE BATTLES.

LONDON, Aug. 21.—The official statements of to-day of the fighting on the western front follow:

FRENCH (NIGHT)—Between the Matz and the Oise the enemy, despite his resistance, gave way under the energetic thrust of our troops, and Lassigny fell into our hands.

Further south we gained a footing on Plomont and occupied Orval Wood. We carried our lines to the outskirts of Chiry-Ourscamp.

East of the Oise our troops continued their success during the course of the day. On the left Carlepoint Wood fell into our power and we reached the Oise to the east of Noyon between Sempigny and Pontoise.

Further east we crossed the road between Noyon and Coucy-le-Chateau. We took Camelin-et-le-Fresne and Blerncourt and advanced our lines to the outskirts of St. Aubin.

Since yesterday we have liberated about twenty villages and advanced eight kilometers at certain points.

FRENCH (DAY)—During the night the situation between the Oise and the Aisne remained unchanged. The enemy did not attempt any reaction. This morning our troops continued their advance along the whole front.

Carlepoint and Oute have fallen into our hands. We have taken ground west of Lassigny after sharp fighting.

A number of German surprise attacks in Champagne were repulsed.

BRITISH (NIGHT)—An attack launched this morning on a front of ten miles from the Ancre to the neighborhood of Moyenneville was successful on the whole of the front. We penetrated deeply into the positions of the enemy and have taken numbers of prisoners.

In the opening assault, under a mist, we captured the villages of Beaucourt-sur-Ancre, Puisieux-au-Mont, Bucquoy, Ablainzeville and Moyenneville. Afterwards we continued our advance to the neighborhood of the Albert-Arras railway, capturing Achiet-le-Petit, the Logeast Wood and Courcelles.

West of Achiet-le-Petit a strong counter attack was repulsed. East of the Ancre our line reached between Boislieux-St. Marc and Mercatel.

Patrol fighting has taken place also on the Lys front, as a result of which our line has been advanced in the neighborhood of Le Touret, east of Paradis, and between Merville and Outtersteun. A few prisoners were taken by us in these encounters.

In a successful local operation carried out by us this morning south of Locre we captured 138 prisoners.

BRITISH (DAY)—We attacked at 4:55 o'clock this morning on a wide front north of the Ancre River. Our troops are reported to be making satisfactory progress.

Yesterday afternoon strong hostile attacks, accompanied by heavy bombardments, against our new positions south and north of the Scarpe were completely repulsed.

We improved our positions slightly in the neighborhood of Fampoux (east of Arras) and captured a few prisoners.

We advanced our line during the night between Festubert and the Lave River (on the southern side of the Lys salient) and are in possession of Le Touret.

Early this morning British troops carried out a successful local operation in the Locre sector on a front of over a mile. All the objectives of the attack were taken and a number of prisoners were captured.

GERMAN (NIGHT)—In Flanders there have been partial engagements west of Kemmel. North of the Ancre strong English attacks, launched on a wide front in the direction of Bapaume, broke down with heavy losses.

A renewed French attempt to break through between the Oise and the Aisne failed.

GERMAN (DAY)—Near Neuf Berquin and Merville and south of the Lys, infantry detachments which had been left behind in the forefield of our new lines beat back several British thrusts and partial attacks.

In these engagements our machine guns and artillery inflicted considerable losses on the enemy.

There have been infantry encounters on both sides of the Scarpe and north of the Ancre.

Northwest of Roye a division, consisting of guards and lower Saxon reserve regiments, which since August 9 has been fighting at the foci of the battle, beat off renewed strong enemy attacks. During the thrust which it made into the enemy's lines we captured prisoners.

Between the Aisne and the Oise the artillery duels increased in the afternoon to great intensity. On both sides of Crapeaumesnil and north and south of Lassigny and the heights southwest of Noyon the enemy several times advanced in strong attacks. The attacks broke down under our fire or in counter attacks.

On the battlefield between the Ancre and the Aisne, according to the reports of our troops, since August 8 more than 500 of the enemy have been taken or destroyed by the effect of our fire.

Between the Oise and the Aisne a renewed attempt by the enemy to break through, which had been expected for some days and which had been preceded on August 18 and 19 by strong attacks, began yesterday. After the strongest increase in the firing, white and colored French troops, supported by numerous tanks, attacked in the early morning in deep formation on a twenty-five kilometer front. They penetrated our front lines in places.

Toward midday the first assault of the enemy into our fighting positions on the line of Carlepoint, south of Blerncourt, Vezaponin and Pommiers was broken. Strong counter attacks by German chasseur regiments, drove the enemy, who had been thrusting forward for a time on the Juvinry ridge, back to Bleuxy.

The French continued their bitter attacks until late in the evening, when they collapsed on the whole of the front under the fire of our artillery and partly in counter thrusts.

The attempts of the enemy to break through have been brought to a standstill on the first battle day with severe losses to him, notwithstanding his reckless bringing in of forces. Our battle aviators took an effective part in repelling the attacks.

In nocturnal flights our bomb squadrons successfully attacked with bombs and machine gun fire the adversary, who was densely concentrated in villages and on railroads and highways.

WOMEN AIDING WAR, SAYS LLOYD GEORGE

Tasks Performed by Feminine Workers Have Upheld Allies, Premier Declares.

RIGHT TO VOTE SHOWS

Tributes From Leaders Mark Closing of Interallied Congress.

PARIS, Aug. 21.—The power and strength of women's votes and opinions never was better exemplified than it was to-night, when a large gathering of people from Paris and the provinces assembled in the Champs Elysees Theatre at the concluding session of the Interallied Women's Congress.

The Earl of Derby, the British Ambassador, in an address related what women had done for England. After his speech he read a letter from David Lloyd George, the British Prime Minister, paying tribute to the work of women in the home. The letter was greeted with tremendous enthusiasm, being considered a guarantee of woman suffrage in the future. The letter in part followed:

"I am anxious to bear testimony to the tremendous part played by the women of England in this vital epoch of human history," writes the Premier in part. "They have not only borne their burden of sorrow and separation with unflinching fortitude and patience but they have assumed an enormous share of the burdens necessary to the practical conduct of the war."

"If it had not been for the splendid manner in which the women came forward to work in the hospitals and munition factories, in administrative offices of all kinds and in war work behind the lines, often in daily danger of the enemy, Great Britain and I believe all the Allies, would have been unable to withstand the enemy attacks of the past few months. For this service to our country and to humanity owes them an unbounded gratitude."

"In the past I have heard it said that women were unfit to vote because they would be weak when it came to understanding the issues and bearing the strains of a great war. I believe that they recognize as clearly as any that there can be no peace, progress or happiness in the world so long as the monopoly of militarism is able to stalk unchallenged and unopposed among the weaker people of the world."

"To them this war is a crusade for righteousness and gentleness. Mr. Clemenceau, the French Premier, would be weak when it came to understanding the issues and bearing the strains of a great war. I believe that they recognize as clearly as any that there can be no peace, progress or happiness in the world so long as the monopoly of militarism is able to stalk unchallenged and unopposed among the weaker people of the world."

AMERICANS BOMB RAILROAD.

Planes Return Safely, Although Under Heavy Fire.

By the Associated Press.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Aug. 21.—American aviators bombed Plabeneville, in the department of Meurthe-et-Moselle, yesterday afternoon and secured many hits, some direct on the railroad tracks. The airplane returned safely, notwithstanding heavy hostile fire.

The bombers originally purposed to attack Longuyon, northeast of Verdun, in the Moselle, but found it too misty to make military targets certain.

In Alsace last night the enemy shelled a portion of the American trenches heavily, but could not even reach the wire. Great efforts were made by the infantry to attempt a raid.

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